MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

France Visa Photo Requirements

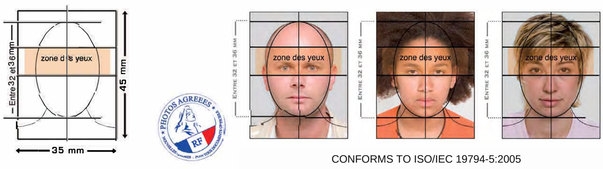
UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Photo specifications for applications for a visa for France.

MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

The photograph must be recent (less than 6 months old) and resemble the applicant on the date of submission.

Examples follow ICAO Document 9303 recommendations for machine-readable travel documents. Each group shows two non-compliant photos (crosses) and one compliant photo (tick).



CONFORMS TO ISO/IEC 19794-5:2005

1 - Format

The photo must be 35 mm wide and 45 mm high. Face height must be 32 to 36 mm, measured from the bottom of the chin to the top of the skull (excluding hair).



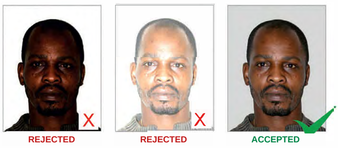
2 - Photo quality

The photograph must be sharp, with no creases or marks.



3 - Brightness, contrast & colour

The photograph must not be overexposed or underexposed. Contrast must be appropriate, with no shadows cast on the face or background. The photograph must be in colour.



4 - Background

The background must be plain and light-coloured, such as light blue or light grey. **White is prohibited.**



5 - Head & head coverings

Long-stay visas serving as residence permits (VLS-TS): The head must be bare; head coverings are prohibited. The face must not be obscured by a hairstyle, hair, a head covering or an ornament.
Schengen visas: Head coverings are not permitted except for religious reasons. They must still allow facial features from the bottom of the chin to the top of the forehead, and the outline of the face, to be clearly seen.



6 - Head position

The face must look directly towards the camera and the head must be upright.



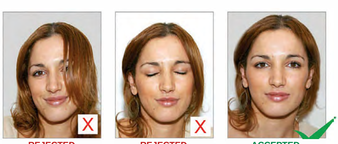
7 - Gaze & expression

The applicant must look at the camera, with a neutral expression and the mouth closed.



8 - Face & eyes

The face must be unobstructed. The eyes must be fully visible and open.



9 - Glasses & frames

Thick frames are prohibited. Frames must not obscure the eyes. Tinted or coloured lenses are prohibited. There must be no reflections on the glasses.



REJECTED
ACCEPTED

For guidance only. Only the visa service may accept or reject a photograph.
Unofficial translation by XY PhotoStudio. The French original and receiving authority's instructions prevail.